REMARKS

Claims 41-44 are pending. Claims 28, 29, and 32-40 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 41-44 have been newly added. Support for these claims is found e.g. on page 14, lines 7-11. Applicants respectfully request examination and allowance of claims 41-44.

Claim Rejections

Claims 28, 29, and 32-40 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fearnster et al., (US 5,235,586, hereinafter "Fearnster") and Chan et al., (US 5,951,687, hereinafter "Chan"). Claims 28, 29, and 32-40 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and this rejection is therefore moot. Applicants do not otherwise concede the correctness of this rejection.

Independent claims 41 and 44, which have been newly added, recite, in part, a system and method that include reading a plurality of data from a data storage area of a disc and, when the read data does not include control data for controlling a computer, obtaining the control data from an external source.

Fearnster fails to disclose or suggest obtaining control data from a source external to a computer and disc if control data is not found in the data storage area. Chan does not overcome the shortcomings of Fearnster. For at least these reasons, Fearnster would not lead a person having skill in the art to the invention of claims 41 and 44, even in view of Chan. Claims 42 and 43 depend from claim 41 and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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CBH/JKS/jt

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